

**DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT
COLORADO-NEW MEXICO**

**Prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, Salt Lake City
in Cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Southern Ute Indian Tribe**

This Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It has been prepared by the Department of the Interior (Interior) through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes (Colorado Ute Tribes). The DSEIS has been prepared under the provisions of Public Law (P.L.) 93-638, the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, to evaluate the potential impacts of implementing the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-585) (Settlement Act). The Settlement Act provides the Colorado Ute Tribes with an assured long-term water supply in order to satisfy the Colorado Ute Tribes' senior water rights claims. EPA is also a cooperating agency with Reclamation on this DSEIS; however, EPA's participation does not necessarily represent agreement with Reclamation on the issues addressed in this DSEIS.

In order to meet these senior water rights claims, a modified Animas-La Plata Project (ALP Project) has been evaluated which would divert flows of the Animas and San Juan Rivers in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico. Reclamation and Interior now propose to construct a 120,000 acre-foot reservoir in Ridges Basin near Durango and implement a water acquisition fund in order to meet the Settlement Act and other project purposes. The ALP Project would supply municipal and industrial water to the Colorado Ute Tribes and other project beneficiaries (e.g., the Navajo Nation, the Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District, and the San Juan Water Commission). The development of this proposed action and its alternatives are described in this report.

This DSEIS supplements previous NEPA documents that have been prepared by Reclamation for the ALP Project. Also included in this DSEIS is the evaluation of alternatives that were developed in 1996-1997 as part of a process convened by then Colorado Governor Roy Romer and Lt. Governor Gail Schoettler.

A number of project alternatives, consisting of both structural and non-structural components, are evaluated in this DSEIS. New or updated information is included relative to hydrology, water quality, endangered species, wildlife, geology, soils, wetlands, cultural resources, recreation, socioeconomic issues, Environmental Justice, Indian Trust Assets, and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.

Public and agency comments on this DSEIS are invited. Written comments can be mailed to Mr. Pat Schumacher, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 640, Durango, Colorado 81301; telephone (970) 385-6500. Written comments can also be provided by e-mail sent to ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov. Comments must be provided to Reclamation by March 17, 2000.

Final Statement No. INT-FES 80-18, dated July 1, 1980
Draft Supplement to the FES No. INT-DES 92-41, dated October 13, 1992
Final Supplement to the FES No. 96-23, dated April 26, 1996

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Date filed with EPA: _____

COMMENTS DUE: March 17, 2000